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Springboard for the Arts provides guides to healthcare

Healthcare reform is on its way, and the changes will affect artists across Montana. With more than one in three artists inadequately insured nationwide, it's especially important to start educating ourselves on the new legal requirement to have health insurance by 2014.

Springboard for the Arts has compiled information from government and private sector sources to help you answer questions like:

- Who must have health insurance?
- What health insurance must I have?
- What's the annual fine for not having health insurance?
- What's a health insurance exchange?
- How much will I pay for health insurance on the exchange?

For answers to these questions and more, go to www.springboardforthearts.org/health/getting-insured-by-2014/.

ARNI'S ADDENDUM

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The legislative finale

At the close of the legislative session, the Montana Arts Council received \$90,000 of its \$184,000 new proposal budget request to replace federal funding loss. Of that \$90,000, \$35,000 is earmarked to go to the Rocky Boy High School for its glass-blowing program. A number of efforts were made at the end of the session to fully fund the agency's request, but these were not successful.

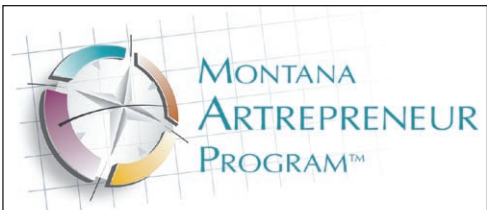
The Montana Arts Council is in discussions with Gov. Bullock's office about this budget situation to see if help may be found from any other quarter. Until this information is known, potential budget cuts are on hold. Organizations or people impacted by all future cuts will be notified as quickly as possible once final decisions are made.

Throughout the session the arts council was very heartened by the support shown by the governor and budget office, not to mention specific legislators on both sides of the aisle. The arts council is also deeply appreciative to Paul Stahl and Drew Geiger for their efforts with the Montana Cultural Advocacy and the lobbying they did on behalf of the Montana Arts Council's budget.

Economic development news

The Montana Arts Council's Montana Artrepreneur Program (MAP) was recently featured at the annual gathering of the Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) in Hamilton. A presentation was given about the program, and six artists and coaches involved in the MAP program presented an exhibit of work on sale from a series of the cohorts involved in this program.

All of the MEDA attendees seemed to be very impressed by the results of the marketing training received by the artists, not to mention the glowing feedback from the artists participating in the program. Here's an overview of the scope of this program to date.



MAP in Montana (as of Spring 2013)

MAP Participation Period: June 2009 to present
Number of MAP cohorts formed: 25
Cohort centers: Flathead, Bitterroot, Arlee, Fort Belknap, Musselshell Valley, Lewis and Clark County, Choteau, Gallatin County, Big Timber, Seeley-Swan, Lincoln, Pintler, Big Belt and the Hi-Line
Total artists enrolled: 231
Total slated to complete: 220
MAP Market Ready Certified: 12
Slated for review in 2013: 21
MAP coaches: 9 certified; 7 in training
Total hours of MAP instruction time provided through 2013: 52 hrs. minimum per cohort; 1,520 hrs. minimum for all groups

Highlights:

- MAP artists range in age from 16 to 72, with 71% over 50 years of age.
- 82% of the artists are female.
- 46% of the artists classified themselves as rural or highly rural; 11% reported living and working in urban or suburban areas.
- 60% of the artists in the first two years of MAP reported a minimum increase of 100% in their sales.
- 89% of the artists from the third year of MAP saw their sales increase or remain stable.
- 50% of MAP artists from the first two years of MAP reported a 25% or greater increase in out-of-state sales of their work.
- At the beginning of MAP, 15% of the artists indicated that they had representation in out-of-state galleries. By the end of 2012, 52% of the artists reported that 90% of their gallery representation was out-of-state.
- At the end of 2012, MAP artists reported that they had reinvested in that year an estimated \$415,000 in their art and the business of art.
- 50% reported that of their total per year reinvestment in their business of art; 51% or more went to Montana businesses.
- In addition to income and property taxes that they pay, MAP artists reinvest in their communities in purchasing framing, studio space, printing, photography, graphics, fuel, raw materials and tools.

Montana-made films (from page 1)

"Winter in the Blood" is among 12 features in the Los Angeles Film Festival's Narrative Competition.

The Smith brothers, Montana natives and writers/directors of the acclaimed "The Slaughter Rule" (2002), shot "Winter in the Blood" during the summer of 2011 along the Montana Hi-Line in Chinook

and Havre – honoring the authentic settings of James Welch's acclaimed novel.

The film will premiere on June 14 and screen again June 19 at LAFF, a world-class film festival showcasing the best in new American and international cinema.

"We are thrilled and honored to debut our film at LAFF," said Andrew Smith, film co-director and associate professor at The University of Montana's School of Media Arts. "This has been a labor of love that stretches back a generation."



Co-directors and brothers Alex and Andrew Smith on the set of "Winter in the Blood."
(Photo by Michael Coles)

("Smoke Signals"), Julia Jones ("Twilight Saga"), Dana Wheeler-Nicholson ("Tombstone," "Friday Night Lights"), and Montana native Lily Gladstone.

The film also cast 21 Montanans, including several first-time actors from the Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy reservations, in addition to more than 100 extras from Montana.

The Smith brothers plan to hit the road with several Montana premieres of "Winter in the Blood" later this year. For more information, visit winterintheblood.com.

Chaske Spencer of the "Twilight Saga" stars as Virgil First Raise. Spencer spent much of his youth in Idaho and Montana, including years living in Poplar, so this production was a bit of "coming home."

In addition to Spencer, the cast includes David Morse ("The Green Mile," "The Hurt Locker"), Gary Farmer

- When ranking the most important value gained from MAP, artists consistently listed self-confidence and the addition of practical business knowledge; 50% of respondents also ranked networking with other Montana artists high on the scale.
- 61% of MAP artists reported helping to support households of up to five people.
- 59% of MAP artists indicated that they would like to see out-of-state advertising for Montana art and artists; 61% said that they would like to see a FAM tour to bring selected buyers into Montana to purchase Montana art.

Arts education director search

MAC is currently searching for our new director of arts education, and anyone interested can find the application at svc.mt.gov/statejobsearch/listingdetails.aspx?id=10462.

You'll see more information elsewhere in the paper, but the bottom line is: the position is full time and pays between \$49,000 and \$53,000; director must reside in Helena; and the application closes Monday, July 8.

Everyone at the arts council is going to miss Beck McLaughlin, who held this position for a dozen years. She did an outstanding job building this program. We owe her a deep debt of gratitude for the incredible work that she did throughout the years.

At the same time, we look forward to experiencing the new vision a new director will bring. The arts council is always focused on how it can best serve Montanans regardless of the position, and we will welcome continued innovation in this program under its new leader.

Summer musings

During the last two months I've been on the road a great deal throughout Montana. Every artist I meet, each arts organization with whom I chat or whose work I see, and each teacher whose work focuses on arts education inspire such pride in our state.

Everyone involved in the arts in Montana makes such a huge impact on local communities and our way of life here. The innovation and creativity you provide, the excitement and pleasure that your work brings and the diligence and resilience with which you approach your work is inspirational and awe inspiring. I can think of no other place on Earth with such remarkable people who have the pleasure of living in such a remarkable place.

All of us on the staff and the council of this agency thank you for all you do and for fulfilling the vision of the arts council, making Big Sky Country the very best place on earth to live and learn, work and play.

Have a great summer!

STATE OF THE ARTS

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Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.

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